Electronic Information Resources Awareness, Attitude and Use by Academic faculty Members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara : A Case Study

1.1 Introduction :

Technological advances are recent years have transformed library and Information Science into more specialized discipline namely Information science. Now, the field of library and information science is continuously embracing a lot of technological advancements of Information communication Technology (ICT) as well as new ideas and initiatives for the enrichment of empowerment of the profession. The changing trends plus the paradigm shift has been reflected in various applications such as Use of various library software packages, Internet and Internet based information services, E-resource management, Digital library initiative, E-publishing trends and knowledge management endeavors.

Now days, library collections are not limited to printed document only but also included electronic resources. The major development that is taking place in the ICT today is widespread availability and use of various kind of electronic resource which have been produced by applying modern information technology. Information has become wider in present day research, covering non print materials. Library and information centers are required to support teaching, learning and research by incorporating electronic and digital information and professional's skills.

Changes in technology in recent years have dramatically altered how information is accessed, stored and disseminated. Whereas information provision in academic libraries was previously based upon the collection of physical library

materials, it is now increasingly the case that academic libraries are moving into the virtual arena. With advances in technology and e-publishing access to information on a local, regional, national and international basis, by overcoming the traditional barriers of time and space has become easy. Large amount of scholarly literature in the form of full-text journals, books, reports, etc., are published in electronic medium. Recognizing the fact that the use of ICT opens new avenues for better services in new found digital environment, the libraries in higher education are adapting to new technologies.

E- Resources represent an in caressingly important component of the collection-building activities of libraries. “Electronic resources” refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are: E-Journals, E-Books, Full-text databases, Indexing and Abstracting databases, Reference databases (Bibliographies, Dictionaries, Directories, and Encyclopedias etc.) Numeric and statistical databases, E-images, e-audio/visual resources. In the fast moving world, everyone wants to get the required items in time.

Libraries are the repository of information full of books and other literary resources. The application of computers to information processing has brought several products and services to the scenes. An electronic resource is any information source that the library provides access to in an electronic format. Electronic resources consist of books, journals, newspapers,

theses, databases, etc. the emergence of e-resources has affected the traditional functions of the academic libraries.

Growth of E- resources : Although information in electronic format was created with the advent of the computer in the 1950s, it was not until the early 1960s that the first database suitable for searching was developed. MEDLARS was the first on-demand computer-based information retrieval service, and it was developed primarily for the medical profession. In 1971, MEDLINE, the 844 LIBRARY TRENDS/SPRING 2000 online versions of MEDLARS, was the first major online dial-up database search service. In the following year, DIALOG offered the first public online commercial database. With these first databases, there were no real acquisition decisions, as they were offered as access services to which libraries could subscribe. Actual searching of these databases produced charges that many libraries passed along to users. While the information revolution was clearly underway, it was not until after the introduction of the CD-ROM in the mid-1980s that electronic resources began to have a major impact on selection practices in libraries (Meadow, 1988). Many of the first CD-ROM products offered to libraries were versions of larger online databases and were supplied on a subscription basis with ownership of the data remaining with the publisher/producer. Initially, the price of the product included licensing of the content and possibly the purchase of a computer and CD-ROM player as well. Products were guaranteed to work only with specified CD-ROM players, as standards were not yet established. The purchase of this equipment as part of the cost of the information product was not always easy. Often equipment was not considered an appropriate use of the library's materials

budget. However, equipment budgets were not always large enough or flexible enough, initially, to accommodate this new demand. As with audiovisual materials, the unit price of these products was high and use was often limited to one individual at a time.

By the early 199Os, individuals at all levels in higher education had begun to have access to electronic mail. Using Telnet, librarians could search the online catalogs of many libraries and, by using FTP, electronic information could be transferred from one site to another. Publishers were also beginning to experiment with different approaches to publishing journals electronically, and, by 1993, there were more than 3,000 titles available in electronic formats (Evans, 1995, p. 204). However, it was not until the development of the World Wide Web (WWW) in the mid-1990s that it became clear that another truly transforming information revolution had begun. The Web, now a major portion of the Internet, is based on a technology called hypertext, and it merges this technology with the techniques of information retrieval (Johnson, 1994, p. 75). Information can be stored on the Web in any format including text, graphics, sound, and video. Although initially limited by text-only interfaces, with the development of the full graphical user interface (GUI) ,this powerful but easy to use information system has experienced tremendous growth in only a few short years. The advent of the GUI made computerized library catalogs easier to access and use than ever before, and most libraries provide users with Internet access to them. For libraries, however, one of the most innovative uses of the WWW is to provide access to databases that no longer must be mounted on

central computers or purchased on CD-ROMs. In addition, individuals, institutions, and businesses everywhere have posted an incredible amount of information on the Web. And, of course, the Web has provided a tremendous boost to the development of electronic publications of all types.

E-resources give attention to a range of legal issue including licensing. 'Licensing' in case of subscription of e-journals must be negotiated with content provider and executed as contracts. While negotiating on licensing, librarians should look into 'authorized users and sites', 'archiving policy and perpetual access', 'copyright and fair user', 'usage statistics', 'liability for unauthorized use', 'privacy and confidentiality', 'cost', 'technical considerations', 'indemnification', 'terms of payment and termination', 'governing law' etc. Apart from the e-resources available on paid basis, it is also available freely through open access content providers which have a positive impact on the organizational research work. However, librarian needs to identify additional open access materials systematically including those resources within the scope of the institutional curriculum and integrating them in local discovery service, but it can significantly enhance e-resource collection which can be offered to users. To meet these challenges, varieties of e-resource management software on electronic resource management system have been developed over the years. These software's are available from open source as well as commercial vendors. Though the Chapter - 1 Introduction 5 system has been developed for managing the entire process of e-resources still there are challenges for librarian to integrate ERMS into existing integrated library management system. Thus a new phase of

automation begins where e-resource management is being incorporated into comprehensive platforms ‘a one stop solution’ rather than managed through separate tools.

1.2 About Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara :

Rayat Shikshan Sanstha is one of the leading educational institutions in India. It was established in **1919** by **Padmabhushan Dr. Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil** with emphasis on the education of the down-trodden, the poor and the ignorant which forms the major bulk of society. He was a great humanitarian who endeavored hard to educate the masses and to bring a light of hope in their lives of misery and ignorance. He was honored with the “Padmabhushan” by Government of India for his enormous educational work. Currently, it has its branches spread over 14 districts of Maharashtra and one in Karnataka, Under its flagship the Sanstha administers 42 Colleges, 438 Secondary Schools, 08 Training Colleges, 28 Primary Schools, 17 Pre-primary Schools, 68 Cosmopolitan Hostels, 08 Ashram Schools, 57 Ancillary Branches. Around 4.4 lakhs of students are catered with their educational needs.

2. Review of Literature and Development in the subject

Chandra, Sankaranarayanan & Nagarajan (2014) attempted to investigate the awareness of e-resources, experience level in using e-resources, time spent on using e-resources, purpose of using e-resources, use of various online sources and the most preferred place for accessing e-resources by the Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai.

Parthasarathy & Kavitha (2014) explained the experience in using E-resources, adequacy of using eresources, Preferred Search engine, possible reasons for using E-resources and Satisfaction level of using e-resources by the teachers of

Government Colleges in Tiruchirapalli. They found that about 484(42.20%) Male and 207(39.81%) Female respondents fulfilled between 51-75 percent of their information needs and 85(7.41%) Male and 28(5.38%) Female respondents fulfilled less than 10.00 percent of their information needs through Electronic Information Resources.

Kandpal, Rawat & Vithal (2013) assessed and evaluated the exposure of ICT and the use of e-resources by the students of NTR College of Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Gannavaram, Andhra Pradesh with a view to know the exposure of ICT and e-resources to the student at their department or library based on a structured questionnaire. The study confirmed that students of Veterinary Sciences are aware of the e-resources and use various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals.

Bhat & Mudhol (2014) presented the findings of a survey about the awareness and use of electronic resources by medical students available in the medical institute libraries. The subjects chosen for this study were 300 faculty members and medical students of Sher-E-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science (SKIMS), Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Vasishta (2013) noted that promotion is the decisive factor in the effective use of sophisticated services such as electronic journals. He argued that, since electronic journal are developing as a new information platform, their promotion requires more than just notification.

Oyedapo and Ojo (2013) in a study on the use of electronic resources in Obafami Alowowo University observed very low usage of electronic resources. The major reason that contributed to low utilization of electronic resources was limited searching skills.

Manda (2005) added additional factors leading to underutilization of electronic resources which included lack of accessibility to computers connected to internet; low internet bandwidth and unreliable power supply.

In a study of 117 faculty members on the use and user perception of e- resources in Annamalai University, Natarajan et al., (2010) established that frequency of electronic resources was low despite its wide range availability. Identified constraints he further noted were: inadequate time, poor awareness, poor subject coverage, and slow downloading.

Igbo and Imo (2010) identified lack of electronic resources and irregularity in subscription to electronic journals as some of the factors inhibiting the use of electronic information resources. In the same vein, Omotayo (2010) observed that, a major issue that constrains users is awareness of electronic information resources. He however argued that awareness of electronic resources is not necessarily a proof of its use. A factor that could discourage some people, particularly the older ones, from using electronic resources is the consequence of prolonged e-book reading. Apart from straining the eyes, using e-resources efficiently will require some computer literacy. Electronic resources are easier to be searched for especially among vast

amounts of data within the shortest possible time. Significantly, a good number of sources are available with the aid of the Internet, some of which can be accessed free of charge. Use of e-resources is becoming more pervasive. Research has to be undertaken in this regard. This study focuses on the effects of demographic variables, motivations, and the constraints of electronic resources on the pattern of its use.

According to Thanuskodi (2012), the majority of users are aware about the availability of e-resources. The result reveals that 47.78 % of respondents wanted to access only electronic version whereas only 32.78% users wanted to read the printed journals but 19.44% respondents wanted to use both electronic and printed version. Majority of the respondents 76.66% used e-resources for writing papers. The analysis reveals that many of the respondents searched e-resources through linking facility available on the library website. Moreover, many of the respondents are unaware and have not used On-line thesis/dissertations, abstracts/indexes, OPAC, on-line databases, which are very relevant for their study and research.

Thanuskodi, S. and Ravi, S. (2011) in their paper titled "Use of Digital Resources by Faculty and Research Scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli discusses utilization of digital resources by faculty and research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Results show that 67.14% of the faculty is familiar with the use of digital resources, and majority of these members are using digital resources for research purpose. Study also reveals that majority of the faculty members are learning the required skills for the

usage of digital resources through self-study. Majority of the faculty members and research scholars (55.71 %) felt that the information available in the digital resources is always adequate.

3. Objective of the Study:

1.To access the adequacy, availability and accessibility of library e-resources in Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's libraries.

2.To find out awareness, attitudes and use of e-resources by faculty members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara

3.To explore the impact of e-resources on faculty members and know the e-resources used by the faculty members.

4.To find out the purpose and level of satisfaction among faculty members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara.

5.To know the problem faced by respondents along with role of librarian as promoter of e- resources.

6.To suggest improvements measures based on the inferences drawn for the study.

4. Hypothesis :

H1: The growth of Information Communication Technology in Rayat Shiksahn Sanstha,s libraries is satisfactory.

H2: The use of E-resources among faculty members are increased with high satisfaction level

H3: Most of the faculty members suggested improment the E-resources in libraries.

H4: Librarians play vital role to promote e- resources among faculty members.

5. Research Methodology :

This study attempts to examine the awareness, attitudes and use of e- resources among faculty members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara. The collected data from primary and secondary sources will present in the form of descriptive method. Survey method is used for collection of the primary data.

5.1 Tools and Techniques :

Pre-tested questionnaire is used for data collection tool and observation techniques are used for this study.

A. Primary Data :

Primary data was collected through personal interview and Pre tested structured questionnaire. The personal interviews with respondents contributed ideas representing types of experiences and opinions.

B. Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected through various published sources i.e. reference books, journals, newspapers, reports, records available, online journals, databases and portals etc.

5.2 Scope of the Study:

The Scope of the study has been limited to selected Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's institutions and faculty members working in higher education sector. The study is limited to electronic resources, attitudes ,use by faculty members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara problems and prospects while accessing electronic resources.

5.3 Limitations of the study

a. This study is limited only to Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara only.

b. This study may not be fully effective; if the respondents create obstacles or hurdles for the researches to collect essential data, facts and other relevant information vital for the study

c. The Observation, analysis and findings are only limited to Rayat Shikshan Sanstha only. And it cannot be generalized with the other institutions working in educational scenario.

5.4 Sample:

Rayat Shishan Sanstha Satara is one of the premiere institutes in higher education and running 42 colleges in Maharastra covered Shivaji University Kohlapur, Savitribai Phule University Pune, Mumbai University and Solapur University. More than 4000 teaching faculty members have working as faculty members in various streams Science, Arts and Commerce, Engineering and Management**.**

5.5 Sampling Techniques

Random sampling technique will be used in the survey conducted

6. Importance of Study:

This study is carried out at International and National level for betterment of services of higher educational scenario. Impact of Information Communication Technology is on each and every sector of higher education and Libraries and information centre is not exception for same. Rayat Shikshan Santha's is one of the premier institution not only India but also in asan county scenario. This study helps to enhance the services in Libraries towards educational professionals.

6.1 International Importance:

Attitudes, awareness and use study conducted throughout the world considering various aspects of the faculty members. Hence the researcher has taken up the present study to analysis the present condition of awareness, attitudes and use of E-recourses among the faculty members of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara working in various regions of Maharashtra in Indian scenario for the benefits of educational scenario in country like India. So it has International Importance. Various studies have been conducted at international level but due to vary conditions and educational environment this study reveals around various universities under variable conditions.

6.2 National Importance:

Researcher has taken consideration this problem for national benefits as the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha is one of the eminent institution serving large populations form the downtrodden groups of students and faculty members. So this study has National importance in educational scenario for betterment of services for e-learning, digital learning and virtual learning. Rayat shikashan Santha form last five years recruited qualified faculty members through e-recruitment and Maharastra Government had also recognized this activity by giving award at state level and Presidents of our county recognized work of Rayat Shikshan Santha and helps to enhance the higher educational scenario in rural sector and

appreciate president and chairman of Sanstha. So this study has national importance, and researcher taken this topic in views towards the development of Sanstha's like Rayat.

Proposed Work Plan for the study:

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Preamble

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1.2.1 Explanation of the concept

1.3 The Significance of the Research

1.4 Objective of the Study

1.5 Hypothesis

1.6 Scope and limitation

Chapter 2 : Review of Literature

Chapter 3 : Research Methodology

Chapter 4 : Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Institutions and Libraries

Chapter 5 : Data Analysis and Presentation

Chapter 6 : Conclusion & suggestion

Appendix Bibliography

Questionnaire

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